Canadian
Horses ...
... a stride ahead
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CANADIAN HORSES...

From Canada's rugged Pacific coast, across its vast interior lands, to its rustic Maritime shores, horses play a vital role in the nation's economy.

It has always been thus. Horses are an integral part of Canada's heritage. Pioneers depended on horses to haul lumber, till the soil and transport goods. In 1865, in recognition of the horse's importance to the country's prosperity, legislation set animal health as a high priority. It is that kind of dedication to excellence that has helped raise Canadian horses to the high level of world-wide acceptance they enjoy today.

Canadian horses display the same diversity as the land and the people that breed them. Whether it be a horse for racing, competing, personal pleasure, driving or working, Canada can provide the performance capability and depth demanded by the most discerning of buyers.

...A STRIDE AHEAD

RACING...

The speed, grace, stamina and heart that Canadian horses demonstrate in races publicized around the world, have captured the interest of spectators and investors alike.

The Queen's Plate which is a part of the Bank of Montreal's Triple Crown, the Molson Export Million, the E.P. Taylor Stakes and the Rothmans International are races which offer large purse monies and great prestige to their winners.

In harness racing, the North America Cup, the Maple Leaf Trotting Classic, the Confederation Cup, the Canadian Pacing Derby, the Nat Christie Memorial and the Stewart Fraser Memorial are all of an equivalent calibre.

When Canadian horses win money in races of this magnitude, they are proving to the world that they have become a yardstick for the measure of excellence in this, a multi-million dollar industry. Indeed, horses such as the legendary Northern Dancer have had a major impact on the bloodlines of successful racehorses everywhere.

The triumphs of Canadian horses are not an accident. Victories by Sunny's Halo, Glorious Song, Armbro Feather and Hy Class Minbar represent the talent that trainers have shown in developing horses to their full potential.

Encouraged by increasing public support for the sport, breeders and owners are continuously upgrading and expanding the quality of their stock. There is, in the Canadian racing industry, a strong drive to produce the perfect 'racing machine'.

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COMPETING UNDER A RIDER...

The diversity of disciplines in English riding calls for a variety of equine characteristics – powerful hindquarters and a more upright head and neck carriage for jumping, a purity of gait for dressage, heart and stamina for eventing and refinement for show hunting.

Talented horses with tremendous scope paired with athletic riders capable of training these horses to their full potential are a formidable combination. Intensely competitive international shows such as the Spruce Meadows Masters in Calgary and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto are superior selection grounds for Canadian horses who move on to future championships around the world. Indeed, the impressive Olympic accomplishments of our Canadian horses are an eloquent advertisement for the availability of ready-made horses in Canada.

Western riding is a special part of Canada's heritage. The unique requirements of demanding ranch life led to the development of a special working saddle and a horse with cow-sense – the stock horse.

Western shows hold reining, cutting, calf roping and speed events such as barrel racing, pole bending and stake racing. The power to accelerate at an incredibly fast speed, the agility to manoeuvre tight, quick turns and the talent to slide to a stop are all equine qualities that are essential to win in such classes.

Stock horses are also used in rodeo competition in calf roping, steer wrestling and as pick up horses.

International shows such as Quarterama and The Royal Red Show draw horses from throughout North America. At these shows horses are ridden English and Western. Under English tack they are shown on the flat at the walk, trot and canter and over fences in hunter hack, working hunter and jumping classes. Under Western gear they walk, jog and lope and do reining work, barrel racing, calf roping and trail. Competition is fierce as each rider strives to be the winner of a prestigious first prize trophy.

The quiet and willing temperament as well as the broad spectrum of athletic capabilities of several different breeds of horses make them ideal mounts for the youth and amateur riders who compete in these English and Western shows.

PERSONAL PLEASURE...

Whether for the competitive challenge of a polo match, a tranquil family trail ride, or a pleasant country drive, the thirty-two registered breeds and the many unregistered Canadian horses offer unlimited options for the selective buyer.

Pleasure riding can be stimulating. Horses bred for size and substance, power and stamina are trained to give riders a breathtaking gallop over rough terrain and formidable fences in pursuit of a fox on an exhilarating field hunt.

Pleasure riding can be relaxing. Horses bred for comfort of gaits, stamina, sure-footedness and pleasant temperaments are ideal mounts for trail rides. Trained to carry both the experienced and the inexperienced, the young and the old, the fit and the not so fit,

these well-mannered horses give tremendous pleasure to riders who enjoy a casual day in the country. As well, these hardy horses give thousands of tourists the thrill of a lifetime as they carry them on overnight camping trips through the scenic, rugged Rocky Mountains or around the vast acreage of a working ranch for a glimpse into what living in the old West must have been like.

There are approximately one and a half million Canadians who enjoy the pleasures derived from communicating with another living creature – the horse – who enjoy fresh air, the creak of saddle leather, the touch of a satiny coat and the warmth of a willing nature.

Aware of the diversity of our pleasure horses, buyers from countries far and wide come to look, to try and to purchase.

DRAFT ...

to compete ... Six horse hitch classes are very popular in Canada and competition is fierce. Teams come from all over North America to exhibit at some of the larger shows. The gentle giants are a joy to watch. Their towering height and massive substance give them an awesome strength which, coupled with the action of their gait and the skill of their drivers, enthrall the audiences. Successes such as the winning of the North American Championship are proving to the world that Canadian draft horses can excel in international competition.

to promote ... Pulling wagons for promotion is a recently developed career for draft horses. These huge animals decked out in gleaming harness pull gaily painted wagons identified with a commercial name. A unique way of marketing a specific product, the eye-catching combinations are extremely popular in parades or at large spectator events.

to work in logging and farming ... Some heavy-breed horses are trained to haul logs or to pull farm implements. The power of their bodies and their co-operative dispositions are ideally suited to such tasks, particularly in areas where the terrain, the access or the conditions limit the use of motor-driven vehicles.

... A STRIDE AHEAD

BREEDING ...

The Canadian horse industry generates close to four billion dollars in economic activity annually. Selective breeding plays a significant role.

In widely diversified segments of the equine industry, the strongly competitive environment of the stake race and of the performance show has led to forward-thinking breeding programs. There is a concentration on the importance of conformation for soundness longevity, and on the selection of bloodlines for specific performance capabilities, unsurpassed anywhere in the world.

to show in line or halter classes ... There are many shows which provide owners the opportunity to exhibit both their young horses and their breeding stock. Such conformation classes are held on a breed basis. The success of the winners increases their value and helps to ensure that the best of the breed will be bred to the best. Thus continued conformation improvement within each breed is ensured for future generations.

to sell at auctions ... Many of the breeds hold annual select sales at which horses for every facet of the industry are available. These auctions, which draw buyers from around the world, are the ideal source of future winners. There are also sales of both breeding stock and shares in stallions. The superior quality of available brood mares and of stallions whose syndication has made shares available for purchase, offers buyers a chance to breed a winner of their own.

Strictly controlled breed registries that function under the guidelines of the Animal Pedigree Act guarantee the accuracy of the pedigrees of Canadian horses. This guarantee is further strengthened by mandatory blood-typing – essential for registration in many of the breeds.

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A HEALTHY INVESTMENT...

Canada has deservedly earned a reputation as a country which continues to place extreme importance on animal health.

This commitment to excellence in animal health research has given Canada an impressive record in the eradication of equine diseases such as Dourine, Glanders, Vesicular Stomatitis and Equine Piroplasmosis. In addition, strict import controls have prevented the entry of African Horse Sickness, Contagious Equine Metritis and Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis into the country.

Each year Canadian animal health professionals perform close to 100,000 tests for Equine Infectious Anemia which became a reportable disease when the Coggins test was made readily available in 1972. The reactors rate has declined to an almost non-existent level, thus making Canada one of the more unique countries in the near absence of this disease.

As part of a far-reaching communications policy to keep breeders, animal health professionals and the public informed about veterinary and human health issues, the Canadian government also ensures that education materials are prepared and assistance provided to minimize difficulties with export outside of Canada.

All serological tests performed for the export of livestock are done in federally approved laboratories. In addition, the inspection, testing and certification of all offshore export consignments is done by full time, salaried Government veterinarians to ensure the integrity of the export health certification process and to verify that all shipments meet the import health requirements of the buyer's country.

Canada's dedication to animal health ensures that purchasers may be totally confident that a Canadian horse is a safe health investment.

There are thirty-two registered breed associations in Canada that can provide further information on their breed. Some of the larger associations are listed below:

Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada
c/o Suzanne Doupe, Executive-Secretary
Box 940, Claresholm, Alberta T0L 0T0
(403) 625-3326

Canadian Arabian Horse Registry
c/o Phyllis Kinsella
4445 Calgary Trail South, #300 Terrace Plaza
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5R7
(403) 436-4244

Canadian Belgian Horse Association
c/o Barbara Meyers
R.R. 3, Schomberg, Ontario L0G 1T0
(416) 939-7497

Société des éleveurs de chevaux Canadien
c/o Paul-Eugène Bélanger
1747 rue St.-Hubert, Montréal, Québec H2L 3Z1
(514) 521-9253

Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada
c/o Albert Hewson
R.R. 2, Thornton, Ontario L0L 2N0
(705) 458-9214

Canadian Hackney Society
c/o Paul Richardson
R.R. 1, Inglewood, Ontario L0N 1K0
(519) 782-3645

Canadian Morgan Horse Association
c/o Peggy McDonald
Box 3480, Leduc, Alberta T9E 6M2
(403) 986-1969

Canadian Percheron Association
c/o Cathie James
Bag 200, Crossfield, Alberta T0M 0S0
(403) 946-5425

Canadian Quarter Horse Association
c/o Scobey Hartley
706 – 7th Avenue S.W., #610
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0Z1
(403) 237-0100

Canadian Sport Horse Association
c/o Valerie Ashenhurst
Box 520, Gormley, Ontario L0H 1G0
(416) 887-5170

Canadian Standardbred Association
c/o Ted Smith
233 Evans Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M8Z 1J6
(416) 252-3565; Fax (416) 252-8103

Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society
c/o Patricia Cattermole
Box 172, Rexdale, Ontario M9W 5L1
(416) 675-1370; Fax (416) 675-9405

Welsh Pony and Cob Society
c/o Beverly Morton-Olafson
Box 254, Beeton, Ontario L0G 1A0
(416) 857-2405

For further information on Canadian horses and how we can be of service contact the commercial section of the Canadian Embassy/Consulate in your area or:

Agriculture Canada,
International Programs Branch
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5
(613) 993-6671; Fax (613) 995-0949

External Affairs
and International Trade Canada
Agricultural Products Division
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G2
(613) 996-3523; Fax (613) 995-8384

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